

1. (currently amended) A method operative in a system in which a set of distributed servers accept file submissions, comprising:

in response to receipt of a submission of a file at a given server, accepting the submission at the given server only if a given subset of the set of distributed servers reach an agreement to the submission within a given timeout period, where the agreement is determined using a data exchange protocol that includes sub-steps as follows:

passing a bit vector from a first server to a second server, the bit vector including a first indication that the first server has knowledge of the file;

upon receipt of the bit vector at the second server, having the second server modify the bit vector to include, together with the first indication, a second indication that the second server also has knowledge of the file;

having the second server pass the bit vector, which includes the first and second indications, to one or more other servers in the given subset; and

upon a given state being reached, as indicated by at least the first and second indications in the bit vector, determining that the agreement has been reached within the given timeout period; and  
upon acceptance of the submission, staging the file for subsequent transport.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled).

5. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the accepting step includes having the given server determine its connectivity to the set of distributed servers prior to initiating the data exchange protocol.

6. (original) The method as described in Claim 5 wherein the accepting step includes having the given server deliver the file to those servers in the set of distributed servers to which the given server has connectivity.

7. (original) The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the given subset of the set of servers is a quorum.

8. (original) The method as described in Claim 7 wherein the quorum is a majority.

9. (currently amended) A method operative in a system comprising a set of distributed servers, wherein each server has the capability of accepting a file submission, comprising:

in response to receipt at a given server of a request to submit a file, having the given server determine its connectivity to other servers of the set;

encoding given information about the file into a temporary identifier;

having the given server push the file and its associated temporary identifier to each of the other servers to which the given server has connectivity;

if the file has been successfully pushed to each of the other servers within a first timeout period, having the given server initiate a data exchange protocol to each of the other servers to which the given server has connectivity, where the data exchange protocol includes sub-steps as follows:

passing a knowledge bit vector among the given server and the other servers;

having each server that receives the knowledge bit vector modify the knowledge bit vector to indicate that server's knowledge of the file; ~~and~~

based on the knowledge bit vector as modified, determining whether a quorum of the servers have reached a given state within a second timeout period; and

~~when if~~ the quorum of servers reach the given state within the second timeout period, accepting the file for submission.

10. (original) The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the temporary identifier comprises given information, the given information selected from a set of information that includes a filename, a timestamp, an identifier for the server at which the request is received, and a random string.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the quorum is a majority.

14. (original) The method as described in Claim 9 wherein the quorum is a given subset of the set of servers.

15. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 9 further including:

at each server of the quorum and after the file is accepted:  
removing the temporary identifier; and  
storing the file persistently in a local file system.

16. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 15 further including staging the file for subsequent delivery.

17. (previously presented) The method as described in Claim 9 further including having the given server issue a reply to a requesting client that the file submission was successful.

18. (new) The method as described in claim 9 wherein the first timeout period is a function of a size of the file.